

Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

Indiana State Department of Health

**ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 08-24
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In Today's Issue:

- Disaster Update and Information



*State Health Commissioner
Judy Monroe, M.D. writes
monthly prescriptions for
Indiana that address
important health issues.*

September 2008: Preparedness

- **Be prepared.**
- **Make a plan.**
- **Stay informed.**

Disaster Information

For the second time in four months, there has been a significant weather event in Indiana. On Saturday, September 13, Indiana experienced rainfall and wind resulting in extensive damage to Hoosier health care facilities. The health care facility damage was widespread and affected facilities from one end of the state to the other.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is aware of at least 78 health care facilities directly affected by flooding and/or storms in the past week and at least another 21 facilities that received patients and residents from evacuated facilities. Facilities affected included hospitals, nursing homes, dialysis centers, home health agencies and group homes. The scope of issues includes total evacuations, relocations within a facility, boil water advisories, power outages, and structural damage.

Here is an overview of the extent of the current disaster:

- 1 surgical hospital evacuated because of flooding
- 1 nursing home totally evacuated because of flooding with 195 residents evacuated
- 2 nursing homes partially evacuated within the facility because of flooding
- 3 end stage renal disease clinics evacuated because of flooding
- 1 home health agency evacuated because of flooding
- 4 group homes evacuated (one of these by boat) because of flooding
- 13 group homes evacuated because of power outages
- 34 nursing homes, 3 hospitals, and 9 group homes with power outages but did not evacuate
- 2 nursing homes and 1 group home under boil water advisories (the ISDH believes that number was likely higher)
- 2 nursing homes and 1 hospital that were threatened by rising water and had to prepare for possible evacuation
- 2 nursing homes and 1 group home with facility damage to roof or siding

The hospital, nursing home, and several group homes remain closed at this time.

If a health care facility needs immediate emergency assistance, the facility should contact their local emergency management agency. Any health care facility experiencing disaster related issues is encouraged to contact and inform the ISDH. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the ISDH have been communicating closely to provide assistance to health care facilities and resolve problems. CMS and the ISDH are in communication with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), FEMA, and state emergency preparedness officials.

This is a good time to remind health care facilities about available resources. In October 2007, CMS issued a memo on [Public Health Emergency Frequently Asked Questions Web Sites](#). This memo provides links to the Survey and Certification Emergency Preparedness Website. That Website includes frequently asked questions, emergency preparedness tools, and preparedness initiative contact information.

This Tuesday, September 23, the ISDH will be hosting a Long Term Care Leadership Conference on emergency preparedness. Part of the conference will be devoted to lessons learned from this summer's floods and storms.

The ISDH thanks those individuals and facilities who have assisted individuals and facilities affected by the flooding and storms. Our thoughts and best wishes are with facility employees, patients, and residents affected by the disaster.



That is all for this week. See you at Tuesday's conference on emergency preparedness.

Terry Whitson
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Indiana State Department of Health